

Martyr Sophia and her three daughters at Rome

(Sept 17)

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.



An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them.

The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith.

They subjected Saint Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

Text & icon from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/09/17/102638-martyr-sophia-and-her-three-daughters-at-rome>



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

215-954-9286



Father James Thayer

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September 17, 2023

SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

COMMEMORATIONS:

SOPHIA & HER THREE DAUGHTERS: FAITH, HOPE, AND
LOVE
HERAKLEIDES & MYRON, BISHOPS OF CYPRUS

Tone 6 - Eothinon 4

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 6 - When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. O thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to thee!

KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS - Tone 4 - Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

TODAY: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.

Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.

NO Sunday School

Coffee Hour

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (Sept 17):
COFFEE HOUR	Festival Leftovers	Bagel Sunday
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin T.	John Child
ALTAR CANDLES:	Celia-Marie Khouri – B-day	Angie Dragrici– Greg’s B-day
USHERS:	Rdr Nick & Steve K.	Sdn John & Bill H.
CLEANING TEAM:	Bill & Linda; Taylor & Bethany	Phil K; Gabe Q; Zach W; Beraki H
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Sh. Hannah; Sze; Christian; Zach W.; Zach F.	Myriam; Conor; Daniel; Andrew

Mark Your Calendar:

Upcoming Education Opportunities:

Bible Study on Romans, on Thursdays after Slavic Tones Vespers, starting September 21

Catechumen & Inquirer Class, on 5pm Saturdays before Vespers, starting Sept 23

Book Discussion on Gender Ideology, 5pm Saturdays before Vespers, starting Sept 23

Byzantine Notation Intro -- Saturdays, 5:00-6:20pm, Sept 23- December 16

Bp THOMAS Visit
November 13-15

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Cleaning Supplies

CHALLENGE FOR 2023:
"You are the Salt of the Earth"

Pray For:

Living	Departed
N.I. Jeremiah	+Olga
N.I. Timothy	+Michael
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+John
Pr. Andrew, family, & parishioners	+Helen
Kh. Joyce	+John
Mary	(September Parish
Timothy	Diptychs)
Xenia	+Helen
George	+Michael
Ephrem	+Barry
Nicole	+Helen
Raymond	+Timothy
Patrick	+George
Doris	
John	
James	
Helen	
Wadieh	<u>Catechumens</u>
Mary	Evan
Victoria	Lucretia
Alexandra	Ryan
Steve	Alina
Lasha	Nicholas,
Otari	Rachel, Luka, & Leo
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries	Michael
Nathan & family & seminarians	Tiffany
New & Expectant Mothers & their children	Caden
For the people of our land, and their repentance, healing & unity	Keith, Maggie, & Eli
The 12 Baskets Full team asks for prayers for our homeless Philly friends – George, Bill, Jim, Jalil, Mark, Joel, Eric	Andrew Daniel Kassandra Christian



THANKS TO GOD AND OUR MANY DEDICATED PARISHIONERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL! PLEASE PRAY FOR MANY OF OUR GUESTS TO RETURN HUNGRY FOR THE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN FAITH.

This Week:

Mon, Sept 18:	Office open
Tues, Sept 19:	Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
Wed, Sept 20:	Office open Compline & Patristic Reading 6:30 p.m.
Thurs, Sept 21:	Slavic Tone Vespers 6:30 p.m. Bible Study on Romans 7:15 p.m.
Fri, Sept 22:	Office open Icon Studio Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept 23:	Catechumen & Inquirer Class 5 p.m. Book Discussion on Gender Ideology 5 p.m. Byzantine Notation Intro 5 p.m. Great VESPERS 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Sept 24:	ORTHROS 8:45 a.m. Divine LITURGY 10 a.m. Sunday School & Teens Coffee Hour Parish Council

ATTENDANCE: Vespers for Sept 9: NA Divine Services Sept 10: 225
Elevation Cross Liturgy: 70

OFFERINGS 9/10: Candles, \$260. Collections, \$922.62. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$11. Building Fund, \$250. Burial Ministry, \$100. Festival, \$979.61. Hospitality Fund, \$80. Mission Chapel, \$135. Needy Fund, \$600. Teen Fund, \$410. Stewardship, \$4,006.42. Total received: \$7,755.65.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!